

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A memory card cooperating with a network interface  
for receiving data entry and update signals from a  
database manager via a switch fabric and with a bus  
5 interface for outputting data on a system bus disposed in  
a system shelf, which shelf forms at least a portion of  
a telecommunications node having a distributed scalable  
database system. The memory card is operable to contain  
at least a portion of the distributed database in a high  
10 speed, high density memory block disposed thereon, which  
memory block is coupled to a network interface controller  
via a first memory interface and to a bus interface  
controller via a second memory interface. An arbiter is  
coupled to the first and second memory interfaces for  
15 arbitrating data input operations and data output  
operations with respect to the memory block.